

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 152

Spring 1997

ONS News

Tübingen Islamic Coinage Conference

The eleventh Tübingen week-end conference on oriental numismatics was held on 19-20 April 1997. As usual the meeting was co-sponsored by the ONS and Tübingen University's Research Centre for Islamic Numismatics. It was attended by some 30 participants from Germany and neighbouring countries, Turkey, Iran and the United States. Since 1994, the venue for the meeting has been either the Oriental or the Archaeological Institute of Tübingen University, both located inside Hohentübingen castle.

Eight papers were read during the two working sessions held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, seven in German and one (MacKenzie) in English. In chronological order of topics handled, J.-Ch. Hinrichs (Bremen) devoted one paper to the coinage of Rum-Saljuq ruler Kay Qubad III, with special attention paid to the emissions acknowledging the overlordship of Ilkhan emperor Ghazan I Mahmud, and another one to the Anatolian mint of Sulaymanshahr under the last Rum-Saljuqs, the Beyliks and the Ilkhans. Lutz Ilisch (Rothenburg) contributed some unpublished material on a now familiar Tübingen theme, the Damascus coinage of Timur. G Puin (Saarbrücken) tackled the technical problems of coin depiction and die reconstruction, referring to mid-19th century experiments with mysterious optical instruments, to Bob Senior's computer-assisted line-drawings and to his own work on Mamluk Sultan Aynal's silver coinage, Damascus mint, year 861 AH. Ken MacKenzie (USA) showed pictures of a rare 18th century billon coin from the Tunis mint struck in the name of Sultan Mahmud I and bearing witness to the conflictual state of relations between Tunisia and Algeria, both at least nominally Ottoman provinces. Hans Herrli (Karlsruhe) investigated the consequence of Napoleon Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt and Syria on the study and knowledge of Arab-moslem coinage and currency in early 19th century Europe. Hans Wilski (Sulzbach/Ts) dealt with undenominated bronze coins of Ottoman Sultans 'Abd-ul-Mejid I and 'Abd-ul-'Aziz. Additionally, Stephan Heidemann (Jena) described some oriental Christian lead seals bearing inscriptions in Arabic.

Participants also heard Heidemann's eulogy of Zambaur's *Münzprägungen des Islams*, Peter Jaekel, who died in 1996 (see below) and Ilisch's appraisal of ten years of oriental numismatic activity at Tübingen since the very first meeting in the spring of 1987. The twelfth meeting has been set tentatively for 18-19 April 1998, but no decision has yet been made on the venue, which will be either Tübingen or Jena.

GPH

New York

On Saturday 31 May 1997 at 5 pm, during the Spring New York International Numismatic Convention, the Oriental Numismatic Society sponsored a talk by Stephen Album on *The monetary reforms of Nadir Shah*. The talk was due to be held in the Mariott World Trade Center.

Congratulation to Stephen Album

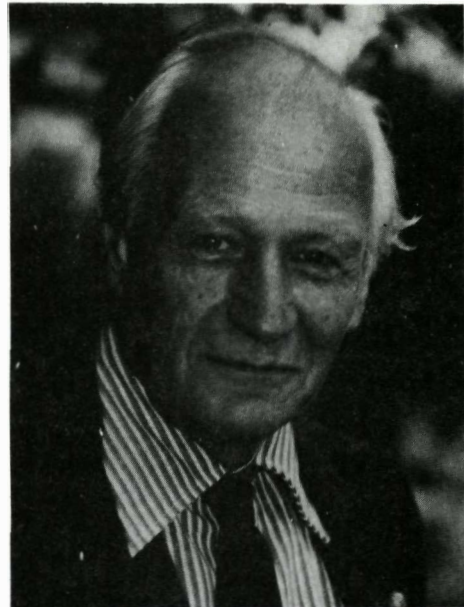
Steve has been awarded the Sackler Fellowship in Art History at Oxford University starting on 1 October 1997. During the next two years he will be working on the publication of the Shamma Collection, presently on loan to the Ashmolean Museum.

ONS Accounts

The ONS accounts for the year up to 31 March 1996 have now been completed. Any member wishing to receive a copy should contact their Regional Secretary, sending a large stamped, addressed envelope. Additionally, UK members can contact the Treasurer, David Priestley in the same way.

Obituary

Peter Jaekel (1914-1996)



Peter Jaekel passed away on 13 September 1996. He worked from 1948 to 1969 at the Staatliche Münz-sammlung in Munich. Most Islamic numismatists will know him as the editor of one of the most useful tools on Islamic numismatics: the life work of Eduard von Zambaur, *Die Münzprägungen des Islams*.

Jaekel's name is connected with the attempt to revive Islamic numismatics after the Second World War in West Germany. Once Heinrich Nützel had left the Berliner Münzkabinett in 1924 (he had already ceased publishing ten years previously), there was no Islamic numismatist in Germany for many decades. No-one replaced him as orientalist at Germany's largest oriental collection

in Berlin. The second largest German collection, in Jena/Thuringia, the Grand-ducal Oriental Coin Cabinet, fell into oblivion, when the Chair for Oriental Languages ceased in 1919.

After the Second World War, the collection of Frédéric Soret (1795-1865), formerly located in Jena and which was given back to the grand-ducal house immediately before the outbreak of the war, found its way into the Staatliche Münzkabinett Munich. It was the starting point for Peter Jaeckel to study Islamic numismatics, a field totally new for him. Before that, he had studied classical archaeology, art history and Latin in Berlin. In 1941, he submitted his doctoral thesis on the weapons on the reliefs of the Pergamene sanctuary of Athena. After the war he became lecturer at the School of Applied Art in Berlin-Weißensee, located within the Soviet sector. He moved in 1948 to Munich and devoted his time to numismatic studies as a free-lance. In 1950 he secured a modest position at the Staatliches Münzsammlung, but before him lay an enormous task: to reorganise the old holdings of oriental coins and the huge incoming collection of Frédéric Soret. Jaeckel first had to learn to decipher the Arabic script and to become acquainted with Islamic history and topography. This he did, teaching himself. In the field of Islamic numismatics he had no teacher or colleague in Germany with whom to exchange information or ideas. In 1969 he was promoted to Director of the Bavarian Army Museum in Ingolstadt, a position he held for ten years. Despite his new activities, he still managed to keep an eye on the oriental world. He was the "discoverer" of the famous "Turkish Booty" of 1683, slumbering in a museum store in Kassel/Hessen. He obtained this on long-term loan for the displays in Ingolstadt.

When he left the Staatliches Münzkabinett in 1969, he unfortunately had no successor in the oriental field. His move to Ingolstadt marked the end of the first attempt to re-institutionalise Islamic numismatics in West Germany. Nevertheless, he tried his best to revive it and to ease the way for new scholars to come. Until the early nineties, Peter Jaeckel taught at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, where he found in the Turkologist, Franz Babinger (1891-1967), a helpful friend. Jaeckel tried to bridge the gap between numismatics as a science in its own right and Islamic studies - but in vain. In a letter of 1988 he commented: *For over twenty years I have been teaching Islamic numismatics at the Institute for Turkish Studies and History of the Near East but do not have a single student who has really taken a serious interest in the subject.* He was one of those who favoured the idea of a research unit for Islamic numismatics in Tübingen in the late eighties and helped to pave the way for the revival of Islamic numismatics in the nineties.

Despite his wide-spread interests, Peter Jaeckel never published a great deal. There are only four short articles on Islamic numismatics and a number of short activity reports in the Munich Museums Yearbook. Jaeckel's ability and interest were more concerned with laying the foundation for future research, for example in his custodial work on the oriental collection in Munich or his efforts to conserve and present the collections of the Bavarian Army Museum, and with drawing people's attention to important objects. This was the case with the "Turkish Booty" and with the edition of Zambaur's *Die Münzprägungen des Islams*. This work was printed in 1942-3 but never finished. During the war and afterwards the printed sheets were stored in Vienna. Jaeckel - as B. Spuler pointed out in his preface - succeeded in convincing the German Research Foundation (DFG) and several scholars to support the final publication of the book in 1968. *Die Münzprägungen* is the key to all relevant literature before 1939. It is the most successful German contribution to numismatic discussion in the field of oriental studies measured in terms of reviews. Never before had a German numismatic publication been so wide-spread or well received.

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'Bagdad 1638', in *Schweizer Münzblätter* 16/1966, pp.86-9.

'Ein Meisterwerk orientalischer Stempelschneiderkunst', in *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte* 12/1962, pp.209-14.

'Eine Rebellenmünze aus der abbasidischen Revolutionszeit', in *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte* 24/1974, pp. 181-90.
'Ein unbekanntes Goldstück aus Yemen', in *Berliner Numismatische Zeitschrift* 14/1953, pp.50-52.

Annual Work Reports:

'Orient', in *Münchner Jahrbuch der bildenden Kunst* 2/1951, pp.253f; 9-10/1958-9, p.426; 15/1964, pp.240f; 20/1969, p.245; 24/1973, pp.263, 266.

Numismatic reviews by Peter Jaeckel:

JNG 8/1957, pp.195-7: D. M. Lang, *Studies in the Numismatic History of Georgia in Transcaucasia*, NY 1955; R. J. Nesmith, *The Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City*, NY 1955; S. P. Noe, *The Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*, NY 1952; E. P. Newman, *Coinage of Colonial Virginia*, NY 1956.

JNG 9/1958, pp.202f: H. L. Adelson, *The American Numismatic Society 1858-1958*, NY 1958.

JNG 10/1959-60, pp.247-9: K. Scott: *Counterfeiting in Colonial New York*, NY 1953; idem, *Counterfeiting in Colonial Pennsylvania*, NY 1955; E. P. Newman, *The Secret of the good Samaritan Shilling*, NY 1959; G. Probszt, *Judenburg in der Münz- und Geldgeschichte vergangener Jahrhunderte*, Judenburg 1958; idem, *Die Münzen Salzburgs*, Basel, Graz 1959.

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Eduard von Zambaur: *Die Münzprägung des Islams, zeitlich und örtlich geordnet*. I. Band, der Westen bis zum Indus mit synoptischen Tabellen. Wiesbaden (Franz Steiner) 1968.

Reviews on E. von Zambaur, Münzprägungen:

Anonym, in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 26/1969, p.151.

Bivar, A. D. H., in *BSOAS* 32/1969, pp.158f.

Brisch, Klaus, in *Kunst des Orients* 7/1970-1, p.79.

Ehrenkreutz, Andrew S., in *JAOS* 89/1969, pp.627f.

Farah, Caesar E., in *Journal of Asian History* 4/1969, pp.178f.

Hansman, John, in *JRAS* 1969, p.75.

Köbert, R., in *Orientalia* 38/1969, pp.370f.

Linder-Welin, Ulla S., in *Hamburger Beiträge zur Numismatik* 21-23/1967-9, pp.925-6.

Matuz, Josef, in *ZDMG* 121/1971, pp.355-8.

Miles, George C., 'Addition to Zambaur's Münzprägung des Islams', in *ANSMN* 17/1971, pp.229-33.

Mitchell, Helen W., in *NC* 7th series 9/1969, pp.354f.

Obituaries:

Aichner, Ernst: 'In memoriam Dr. Peter Jaeckel', in *Kaskett* 7/1996, pp.46f.

Klose, Dietrich O.A.: 'Peter Jaeckel', in *Geldgeschichtliche Nachrichten* 177/Januar 1997, p.31.

Overbeck, Bernhard: 'Peter Jaeckel †', in *Numismatische Nachrichtenblatt* 12/1996, p.12.

- 'Peter Jaeckel (18.5.1914 - 13.9.1996)', in *International Numismatic Newsletter* 29/1996, pp.21f.

Schabienstiel, Martin: 'In Memoriam Dr. Peter Jaeckel', in *Sammlerbrief der Vereinigung Freie Zinnfigurensammler e. V.* 9-10/1996, p.186.

His manuscripts and lectures on Islamic numismatics are placed in the Thüringer Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek by courtesy of his niece, Mrs. Marianne Nienaber.

Stefan Heidemann, Jena

Shirgat. Andrae's main concern, however, was the old Assyrian and Parthian period. Therefore the Islamic history of Assur after the Sasanian conquest remained until now mainly in the dark. This pre-First World War excavation is characterised by thorough documentation. Around one-third of all single coin finds and some of the coin hoards are recorded on glass photoplates. Only a few coins were known to have survived the political disasters of our century. The rediscovery of Assur's history from the Parthian period onwards started with the identification of these photographed coins.

The first article consists mainly of a catalogue of the documented single coin finds together with some hoards - one of 15 Roman-Severan aurei, several Parthian copper hoards as well as one hoard of 24 Zangid-Lu'lu'id and early Mongol dinars. The second article offers a reconstruction of the Islamic history of Assur as a significant example of the settlement patterns in northern Mesopotamia from the Sasanian conquest up to the turn of the century. The coin finds from Assur are an essential source for the political history of the Tigris region between both Zâb rivers. These finds together with some references mentioned in mediaeval chronicles provide an insight into the political and economic developments of a large village (Ibn Jubair) in northern Mesopotamia, especially for the 12th and 13th centuries.

On the basis of the coins and architectural remains we are able to detect a settlement on the site for the early Islamic period. After this, Assur was, for several centuries, a deserted place again. At the end of the 12th century Assur became recultivated. The site of the ancient Assur could be identified with 'Aqr ibn Zu'la, described by Ibn Jubair, Yaqut and Ibn Battuta. Al-'Aqr was the last stop of the pilgrim caravan route from the Hijaz. Here the caravans dissolved and the pilgrims went home in different directions.

The coin finds show an uninterrupted sequence of types from the end of the 12th century to the middle of the 14th century. The coin-type sequence documents furthermore a shift in the suzerainty over al-'Aqr and subsequently over the Tigris region between both Zâb rivers from the ruling family of Irbil to that of Mosul during the first decades of the 13th century. It further became a frontier post between the principality of Mosul and the 'Abbasid caliphate of Baghdad and a place where custom dues and road taxes (maks and himaya) were levied. The coin finds indicate an economic decline during the 14th century. The reasons can be sought in the steady threat to the caravan route by bedouins during the time of the dissolution of the Ilkhan empire. However, the Ilkhanid and Sulahid mint al-'Aqr could be both 'Aqr ibn Zu'la or al-'Aqr al-Humaidiya until further evidence is available. During the 17th century, the French traveller Jean de Thevenot found at Qal'at Shirgat a humble Arab settlement. Some Ottoman coins from Baghdad survived from the 18th century. The place continued to be threatened by Bedouins, as some travellers in the 19th century experienced tragically.

2. The All India Educational Supply Co. (17 Sri Ram Building, Jawahar Nagar, Post Box 2147, Delhi-110007, India; fax: ++91 11 6866588) publishes coin charts and maps of India.

Eleven Rexine silk-screen printed coin charts are available, each 65 x 100 cm, at the price of US\$45 per chart. Prepared under the supervision of Dr P L Gupta, the charts are: punch-marked coins; Indo-Greek, Saka and Indo-Parthian; Kushan coins; Post-Mauryan local coins; coins of the Gupta dynasty; Post-Gupta coins; coins of the Sultans of Delhi; coins of the provincial sultans; coins of the Deccan sultans; Mughals; and South Indian coins.

Dr Gupta has also edited and supervised the production of a series of 26 historical maps of India and a series of 23 charts of ancient, mediaeval and overseas Indian palaeography and numeral listings. The charts cost US\$16 each and measure 75 x 100 cm. They are made of cloth and are fitted with rollers and varnished with enamel. The historical maps have the same dimensions and are printed multicolour on laminated lithopaper mounted on cloth. The set costs US\$400 or each map US\$26. Each map delineates the expansions and disintegration of kingdoms, empires and territories within each period; important towns, battlefields, travel routes and trading centres are shown. The series comprises the following maps:

Vedic India
Age of Mahajanapa
Mauryan empire

Other News

Berlin Congress

The provisional total for papers on oriental subjects is 44 at the time of writing and covers a wide range of oriental series, from Spain to China. If all goes well, there will be speakers from Spain, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Marocco, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, USA, UK, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Cyprus and Egypt. Members should note that there is still time to register for the congress.

New and Recent Publications

1. Stefan Heidemann has sent details of the following articles:

Stefan Heidemann and Peter Miglus: *Fundmünzen aus Assur und Lokalggeschichte in islamischer Zeit*, in Peter A Miglus: *Das Wohngebiet von Assur Stratigraphie und Architektur*, 93. Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft, Berlin (Gebr. Mann) 1996, 353-376.

Stefan Heidemann: *Al-'Aqr, das islamische Assur. Ein Beitrag zur historischen Topographie in Nordmesopotamien*, in Karin Bartl, Stefan Hauser: *Continuity and change in Northern Mesopotamia from the Hellenistic to the early Islamic period, Berliner Beiträge zum vorderen Orient 17*, Berlin (Dietrich Reimer) 1996, 259-286. This volume also contains Elisabeth Savage: *Early 'Abbasid coinage, traces of the past*. P 173-184.

Summary of the Assur articles.

The German archaeologist, Walter Andrae (1875-1956), excavated the ancient site of Assur between 1904 and 1914 in the name of the Deutsche Orientgesellschaft. The site was then called Qal'at

Post-Mauryan period
 Kushanas Western Saka
 Gupta-Vakataka age
 Period of Harsha and Chalukyas
 Gurjara-Pratihara
 Kingdoms of South India
 Ghaznavids Ghurids
 Khaljis and Tughluqs
 Later sultanate period
 The Deccan
 Suris and early Mughals
 Mughal Empire under Akbar
 Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb
 Disintegration of Mughal Empire
 Kingdom of Shivaji
 European commercial contacts
 Expansion of British power
 Expansion during British period
 India in 1987
 Struggle for freedom
 India prior to partition
 India Republic from 1947 to 1987
 India Republic 1996

This company also publishes series of modern state maps of India, socio-economic maps of Indian states, reference maps of India, city guides and a National Atlas of India (US\$425).

3. The next Bulletin of the Asia Institute will appear in summer and will include the following two articles by Martha L Carter:

OESHO or Siva

A note on metalwork from the Hellenistic East

The Bulletin will contain around 225 pages with 140 illustrations. The price is US\$65 plus \$8 for shipping. Prepayment is necessary and should be made in US currency on a US bank. The Bulletin can be ordered from Bulletin of the Asia Institute, 3287 Broadway Blvd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, USA. ☎ ++1 810 647 7917; fax ++1 810 647 9223; e-mail bai34@aol.com.

4. IIRNS Newsline Issue 12 (October 1996) contains some information on the activities of the Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, Nasik, as well as the following items:

researches on early uninscribed cast coins (editorial)

Rehan Ahamad: *Some new symbol combinations on punch-marked coins*

Biswajeet Rath: *An interesting coin of Kumaragupta (the reverse legend on this coin reads anti-clockwise)*

Jayant Hunnargikar: *Jahangir's copper coins from Ujjain mint*

Dilip Balsekar: *Some new varieties of Aurangzeb's copper coin from Haiderabad*

5. *Studies in Silk Road coins and culture: papers in honour of Professor Ikuo Hirayama on his 65th birthday*, edited by Katsumi Tanabe, Joe Cribb and Helen Wang, published by the Institute of Silk Road Studies, Kamakura, Japan. Available June 1997 from the British Museum bookshop.

This volume, designed as a companion volume to the annual *Silk Road Art and Archaeology*, contains 15 papers which were presented at the Silk Road Coins and Culture Conference held on 1-2 April 1993 at the British Museum. The papers are as follows:

Joe Cribb: *Shiva images on Kushan and Kushano-Sasanian coins.*

Osmund Bopearachchi: *Našten, a hitherto unknown Iranian ruler in India.*

Katsumi Tanabe: *The Kushano-Sasanian kings hidden in Roman and Chinese literary sources.*

B V Zeymal: *Coins from the excavations of Takht-i Sangin (1976-1991).*

R D Goldina and A B Nikitin: *New finds of Sasanian, Central Asian and Byzantine coins from the region of Perm, the Kama-Urals area.*

Mariusz Mielczarek: *Remarks on the numismatic evidence for the northern Silk Route: the Sasanians and the trade route linking the northern Black Sea area with Central Asia.*

François Thierry: *On the Tang coins collected by Pelliot in Chinese Turkestan (1906-1909).*

Nicholas Rhodes: *Tang dynasty coins made in Xinjiang.*
 Helen Wang: *The Stein collection of coins from Chinese Central Asia.*

Venetia Porter: *The Islamic coins collected by Stein in Chinese Central Asia.*

Frances Wood: *From Central Asia to London: the Stein collection of manuscripts in the British Library.*

Susan Whitfield: *The future of the Stein collection in the British Library.*

Anne Farrer: *From paradise paintings to paper flowers: comparative values in the pictorial material from Cave 17, Dunhuang.*

Samuel N C Lieu: *Manichaeism art and texts from the Silk Road.*

Chandrika Neelamanie Jayasinghe: *Foreign influence on ancient Sri Lanka.*

6. *Fountain of Fortune: money and monetary policy in China, 1000-1700*, by Richard von Glahn, published by University of California Press, Ltd, 1996. This book of over 300 pages has chapters with the following headings:

The fundamentals of classical Chinese monetary analysis.

Transition to the silver economy 1000-1435.

Coinage in the dawning age of silver 1435-1570.

Foreign silver and China's "Silver Century" 1550-1650.

Coin vs silver: expansionary policies of the Wanli reign, 1570-1620.

The great debasements: the Tianqi and Chongzhen reigns, 1620-1645.

The "monetary crisis" of the seventeenth century.

There are also notes, a glossary and a bibliography.

Lists Received

1. Stephen Album (PO Box 7386, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95407, USA; ☎ ++1 707-539-2120; fax ++1 707-539-3348) list number 134 (April 1997), list number 135 (May 1997).

2. Persic Gallery (PO Box 10317, Torrance, Calif. 90505, USA; ☎ ++1 310-326-8866; fax ++1 310-326-5618) list 40 of Islamic, Indian and Central Asian coinages.

3. Indian Books Centre (40/5 Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, India; ☎ ++91 11-7434930; fax ++91 11-7227336) lists 4225 and 4226/97 (January and February 1997). Both contain an extensive list of books on Indian history.

4. William B. Warden, Jr. (PO Box 356, New Hope, PA 18938, USA; ☎/fax ++1 215 297 5052) a list of Indian sultanate coins.

5. Monica Tye (... list 13 of mainly oriental coins.

Auction News

Recent Spink and Baldwins auctions have featured a large number of Mughal mohurs, often in extremely fine condition. Among these coins are a number with previously unpublished ruler/ mint combinations, as far as I can ascertain.

The auctions are:

Spink auction 115, 9-10 October 1996 (S115)

Spink auction 119, 4 March 1997 (S119)

Baldwin's auction 13, 28 May 1997 (B13)

It is worth summarising these coins here so that collectors can update their mint lists.

Aurangzeb, Burhanpur, Baldat Fakhira, year 3 (S119/537)

Mu'azzam Shah (pre-accession name of Shah Alam I), Azimabad, Ahd (S119/548 and B13/2144)

Shah Alam I, Ahsanabad, year 4 (S115/1951)

Shah Alam I, Allahabad, AH 1119, Ahd (S115/1953)

Shah Alam I, Katak, Ahd (S115/1961). A mohur of this mint also featured in a Spink/Taisei sale in 1991.

Shah Alam I, Nasratabad, AH 1122, year 4 (S115/1964)

Shah Alam I, Sikakul, year 3 (S115/1967)

Jahandar, Allahabad, AH 1124, Ahd (S119/549)

Jahandar, Elichpur, Ahd (S115/1970)

Jahandar, Haiderabad, Farkhanda Bunyad, AH 1124, Ahd (S115/1971)

Jahandar, Toragal, Ahd (S119/550)

Farrukhsiyar, Ahmedabad, year 7 (S115/1972)

Farrukhsiyar, Ahmednagar, (S119/552)

Farrukhsiyar, Fathabad Dharur, AH 1126, year 3 (S115/1973)

Farrukhsiyar, Kambayat, year 8 (S119/554)
 Rafi' -ud-Darjat, Ujjain, Dar ul-Fath, AH 1131, Ahd (S115/1982)
 Ahmed Shah Bahadur, Kora, Ahd (S115/1997)
 Alamgir II, Mu'azzamabad, Ahd (S115/2001). A mohur of this
 mint also featured in a Spink/Taisei sale in 1991.
 Alamgir II, Sironj, AH 1168, year 2 (B13/2167)

On 4 September 1997 Baldwin's Auctions will be holding an auction in Hong Kong that will include some more Indian gold and silver coins, as well as plenty of other oriental material. Some of the Indian items do not seem to have been fully published before and are detailed here.

For further information in due course, please contact Baldwin's Auctions, 11 Adelphi Terrace, London WC2N 6BJ. ☎ ++44 171 930 9808. Fax: ++44 171 930 9450.

The following two rupees, noted recently, are worthy of mention.

1. Mughal: Ahmed Shah Bahadur (AH 1161-67 / AD 1748-54)
 Rupee of Alamgirpur, year 5



Alamgirpur is the name given by Aurangzeb to the town of Bhilsa in Eastern Malwa. The name appears on coins of Aurangzeb and subsequent rulers. A coin struck in the name of Ahmed Shah Bahadur does not seem to have been published before. According to Wiggins and Lingen, in their book on the coins of the Sindhias (1978), Sawai Jai Singh of Jaipur, who was Governor of Malwa (1733-43) granted Bhilsa to the Nawab of Bhopal, who had founded a state nearby. Bhopal, however, was soon afterwards beset by the Marathas, who seized Bhilsa and the surrounding area in 1745. Bhilsa was subsequently made over to Mahadji Rao Sindhia in around 1775 and became part of the Gwalior state. The present coin would have been struck during the period of Maratha occupation and should therefore be considered a Maratha coin. It bears the normal Ahmed Shah Bahadur legends, weighs 11.22 g and has a diameter of 22 mm.

2 Mughal: Alamgir II (AH 1167-73 / AD 1754-59)
 Rupee, Ausa AH 1172, year 5. Weight 10.84 g, diameter 21 mm.



Ausa is situated in the Osmanabad district of Maharashtra, about 50 miles north-east of Sholapur. It was captured by the Mughals in 1636 during the reign of Shah Jehan I. Coins are known from the reign of Shah Alam I onwards, though not from some of the more ephemeral rulers. They are all rare. A rupee in the name of Alamgir II is said to have been in the Nelson Wright collection. The present rupee has standard Alamgir II legends and has a shroff mark consisting of a crescent and dot that I have seen on other scarce rupees from this area. The 2 of the date is also engraved somewhat like a 4. At this period, Ausa was probably part of the territories or the Nizam of Haiderabad.

The Mint of Baghshur

M. I. Mochiri
 Paris

This article concerns two coins imitating those of Hurmazd IV, following a usual practice in Central Asia at the beginning of the Islamic period. They have already been published earlier in the context of the mint places of the region, which was conquered by Bahram Āubin, the future Bahram VI.¹ Apart from one component, these two coins are similar. The wish inscribed behind the crown of the sovereign has two different aspects. The detailed description of these coins having been published in *ENIS II*, I shall not go back to it. The mint place written in Pahlavi on the left side of the right attendant of the reverse reads *glzw'n*, which determines its identification as Gurzuvan. This determination is easy if the word written in Arabic on the right side of the left attendant is not taken into account. This space, usually reserved for the date of issue, is occupied by a term which is not a date. It is, surprisingly, the name of another mint place written in Arabic characters, unpublished until now, and it reads:

بَغشُور = بَغشُور = Baghshūr



If I neglected this word while publishing it for the first time, this was due to the ambiguity of its calligraphy. On coin no. 1 where the legend is intact, the first two letters *b* and *gh*, instead of being on the same horizontal line (as we see above on the right side), form an angle of 45° between them, so that the letter *b* is slipping downwards. This, associated with the pronounced gap of the horns of the letter *gh* contribute to reading the first two letters as *b* and *j* (or *h* or *kh*). Consequently, one could misread them, for instance, as *bakhshur* (in the way that it appears above on the left side). This inscription is close to the usual calligraphy on coin no. 2 where the letter *b* drops less in a downwards direction and the gap is less pronounced. Another component of this orthography, which is surprising at this period of issuing coins, is the presence of diacritical marks on the letters. The three dots of *sh* are aligned, that of *gh* is correctly situated above the horns, but that of the letter *b* is displaced above and at the side of that of the letter *gh*. The dot which is a pellet under the letter *b* belongs to the attendant on the left.

Baghshur as a mint place does not seem to have been noted previously. It could therefore be an Islamic mint place which appears only on coins imitating those of Hurmazd IV.

In the anonymous *Hudud al-'Alam*, one reads: "Baghshur lies on the steppe (*biyaban*) and has water from wells."² More information given by Minorsky is as follows:

'Baghshur was separated from Marvarudh by a mountain. The details on the wells may explain the name Baghshur which, according to Vullers, means: "a pool of salt water" (*gav-i ab-i shur*). According to Wassaf, in Mongol days the Khorasanian Baghshur was called *Mori Shiburghan* (the first element [in

Mongol "horse"] still survives in *Qal'a-yi Maur*, the name of the Russian railway station near which Baghshur was situated), cf. Barthold, *Irrigation*, 64.²³



Notes

1. M.I. Mochiri, *Etude de Numismatique Iranienne sous les Sassanides et Arabe-Sassanides*, Téhéran, 1977, p. 103, figs. 236 et 237.
2. V. Minorsky, *Hudud al-'Alam*, London, 1937, p. 104.
3. *Ibid.* p. 327.

An Unrecorded Date for Talha bin 'Abdullah
Frank Timmermann



I have examined a group of Arab-Sasanian style dirhems from Sistan. One coin of the Umayyad governor Talha bin 'Abdallah (his short governorships: 62 AH¹ and 64/5 AH), is worthy of note. The coin is clipped, the type is already published.²

It has the usual SK (Sistan) mintmark but clearly shows the date 65 AH (سده / کلوه) "prēshst", in pehlevi. This date is unrecorded for Talha bin 'Abdullah's second governorship in Sistan.

Notes

1. See also Münzen und Medaillen AG, Basel, auction 69, lot 114 (62 AH).
2. Walker, pl. XVIII, no. 2 (64 AH) and pl. XXXV, no. 9 (64 AH), 10, pp. 95/6.; Gaube, pl. 7, no. 79 (64 AH), p. 156.

A Seventeenth Century Dirham Hoard of Ottoman Iraq

Norman D. Nicol

Several years ago, this writer had the opportunity to study a hoard of Ottoman silver dirhams minted in Baghdad. The provenance of the hoard is unknown, but it is likely to have been discovered in modern-day Iraq. The total number of pieces in the extant hoard were 318, but it cannot be stated with any certainty that the complete hoard is enumerated below.

Murad IV (1032-1049 AH/ 1623-1640 AD)

سلطان مراد
خان غازی بن احمد
خان عز نصره ضرب
فی بغداد
(سده)

(tughra)

Æ Dirham - Baghdad, 1045-1049

Dates represented and number of each: 1045 (1), 1048 (2), 1049 (2), 104x (1), 10xx (2), date missing (21), mint and date missing (14). Total 43, average weight 2.95g.

References: Ölçer no. 92 (dated 1048); KM (Iraq) no. 15; Artuk no. 1687 is a half dirham, wt. 1.65g.

Ibrahim (1049-1058 AH/ 1640-1648 AD)

سلطان ابراهیم
خان بن احمد خان
عز نصره ضرب فی
بغداد ٤٩

(tughra)

Æ Dirham - Baghdad, 1049 (type 1)

Dates represented and number of each: 1049 (2), date missing (11), mint and date missing (29). Total 39.

References: Pere 432 (2.82g).

خلد ملکه
و سلطانه
ضرب بغداد
١٠٤٩

ابراهیم
(in tughra)

Æ Dirham - Baghdad, 1049 (type 2)

Dates represented and number of each: 1049 (4), date missing (2). Total 6.

References: Ghalib 527.

خلد ملکه
(in cartouche) بغداد
ضرب
١٠٤٩

ابراهیم
(in tughra)

Æ Dirham - Baghdad, 1049 (type 3)

Dates represented and number of each: 1049 (5), 1041 (error for 1049) (4), 104x (4), date missing (7). Total 20.

References: KM (Iraq) no. 23.

Murad VI (1058-1099 AH/ 1648-1687 AD)

سلطان
محمد بن ابراهیم
خان عز نصره
ضرب بغداد
١٠٥٨

(tughra)

Æ Dirham - Baghdad, 1058 (type 1)

Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (5), (10)58 (1), 105x (1), date missing (9), mint and date missing (6). Total 22.

References: Ghalib 550.

ن
سلطا محمد
بن ابراهيم خان
عز نصره ضرب
بغداد
١٠٥٨

⌘ Dirham - Baghdad, 1058, 1061 (type 2a)
Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (13), (10)58 (4), 105x (2), 1061 (1), date missing (64), mint and date missing (36). Total 120.
References: Pere 433 (2.75g, misattributed to Ibrahim); Pere 452 (2.77g); KM no. 27.

ن
سلطا محمد
بن ابراهيم خان
عز نصره ضرب
بغداد

⌘ Dirham - Baghdad, undated (type 2c)
The date was never engraved on the die, but probably was intended to be 1058.
Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (1). Total 1.
References: Variety of Pere 452.

ن
سلطا محمد
بن ابراهيم خان
عز نصره ضرب
١٠٥٨

⌘ Dirham - [Baghdad], 1058 (type 2b)
The mint was never engraved on the die, but it must be Baghdad, from similarity to type 2a.
Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (4). Total 4.
References: Variety of Pere 452.

ب
ضرب
بغداد
١٠٥٨

In margin: سلطان محمد خان بن ابراهيم خان عز نصره
⌘ Dirham - Baghdad, 1058 (type 3)
Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (24), 105x (5), 1044 (4), date missing (4). Total 37.
References: Pere 453 (2.90g); Ghalib 549; KM no. 28.

خلد ملكه
(in cartouche) بغداد
ضرب
١٠٤٨

⌘ Dirham - Baghdad, 1058, 1059 (type 4)
Dates represented and number of each: 1058 (1), 1059 (2), date missing (25). Total 28.
References: Pere 454 (3.05g); KM no. 29.

Hajatria, son of the Satrap Kharaosta

Bob Senior

Ⲫⲁⲓⲧⲣⲓⲁ Ⲫⲁⲓⲧⲣⲓⲁ Ⲫⲁⲓⲧⲣⲓⲁ
Chatrapasa Kharaostaputrasa Hajatriasa

The above legend appears on a series of small, square coppers from the Punjab region. The Satrap Kharaosta, or Kharahostes, is well known from his coins on which he calls himself 'the son of Arta'. His name also appears on the Mathura Lion Capital, now in the British Museum, where he is described as the 'Yuvaraja' or heir apparent. His daughter is referred to there as the chief Queen of the Mahasatrap Rajuvula and two princes mentioned on the Lion Capital as sons of Kharaosta bear the names Hayuarana and Hana.

The name of his son on these coins is different that either of these and, though I am fairly certain of my reading, there is little doubt as to the first letter of his name. The initial Askara resembles the letter *Kha* but written in a retrograde fashion. Since it is written thus on all the coins, no mistake as been made and therefore another letter is probably intended. *Ha* can be written vertically in this fashion but the foot is not usually so straight. There are few alternatives, possibly only *Dha*, or *Mu* written on its side, and I think therefore that my reading must be correct.



x2

Above is one such coin showing Hajatria mounted on a horse with his right arm raised, probably holding a whip. Unlike on regal coinage, he wears no diadem and no ties fly behind him. The Greek legend is incomplete but various specimens show remnants of 'King of Kings...' written with square letter forms. Before the horse is the symbol ⲛ. On the reverse is a female deity wearing ear-rings and seated on an omphalos. In the field are the letters *Ma* (left) and *Dhra* (right - another variety known with the letters exchanged - ill. 1).

Interestingly, these same control letters appear on the lead coins of Sodasa, son of Rajuvula, issued in Jammu. A different issue has the king mounted left with the initial letter of his name + three dots behind his head. (ill.2).



His other coins show a standing figure on the reverse with right arm raised. Hajatria can be mounted either right (ill. 3) or left (ill.4). Varieties exist with different field letters, three dots etc. but all this type have a monogram 𑀘 or 𑀙 in one of the fields.



These issues can be easily mistaken for others which bear the name of the posthumous Azes. Ill. 5 shows one with the seated deity and in one field is the letter *Ma* found on Hajatria's similar coins, plus *Gho* which is the lower part of the monogram from the 'standing figure' coins. Ill. 6 shows the same monogram as on

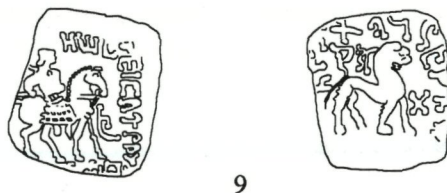


Hajatria's coin of the same type plus his initial letter in the right field. All these coins have the same obverse symbol. Another variety of the latter type has the rider mounted left. It seems reasonable to assume that all these coins were issued by Hajatria.

Another much more extensive series of coins exists which bear the same obverse and reverse monograms and which depict the rider in the same manner, without diadem ties. They are tetradrachms and they were also issued in the name of the posthumous Azes (ill. 7).



In the left reverse field is the letter *Kha*. There is a lot of variety in the type with tiny field letters, nandipadas and sometimes a rosette of dots. The commonest issue has two letter *Kha*'s in the left field. It is tempting to think that the *Kha* refers to Kharasta, Hajatria's father. On a few coins the *Ha* appears behind the rider's head. Rosettes of dots appear on some coins of Abdagases (c. 5BC to AD 19), Indravasu (c. AD 19 - of whom see below) and Aspavarma (c. AD 19 to 50). Tetradrachms of this type have been found in hoards of this time and they certainly seem to have been issued over a lengthy period. One other coin in the name of the posthumous Azes is known that provides a link between these latter coins, the coins of Hajatria and those of his father. They show a rider right as before with the same obverse symbol and on the reverse is a lion right. Before the lion is an 'X' and above it is the letter *Shi*, which is the upper part of the monogram appearing on the many coins previously dealt with. The lion and 'X' give a direct link to the coins of Kharasta (ii. 9).



I have written more fully on this subject elsewhere (to be published soon) and identified some possible silver tetradrachms issued by Kharahosta (Kharahostes) in the name of the posthumous Azes. Here it only remains to try and put some date to the coins of Hajatria. His father's name occurs on a reliquary inscription recently translated by Prof. R. Salomon. This reliquary was later inscribed by Indravarma, the father of Aspavarma and we have a date for Indravarma from another inscription (of c. AD 6). This inscription also mentions the Apracaraja Indravasu (of whom we have coins) and his father Vijayamitra. Vijayamitra's 25th 'regnal' year is mentioned on the Indravarma inscription of AD 6 and I believe that Vijayamitra came to power in c. 20 BC on the death of Azes. Kharahostes seems to have risen to prominence after this date and possibly as Satrap of Gondophares who came on the scene in N.W. India c. 20 BC until his death c. 5 BC. The above detailed tetradrachms and copper in the name of Azes and Hajatria all bear the symbol (☉) and the only other coin on which a similar symbol occurs is the 'Augustus' head copper of Kujula Kadphises, possibly issued in upper Swat (see ONS Newsletter 151). I place Kujula Kadphises, a rival of Gondophares, c. 25 BC to AD 25 and Hajatria may have become allied to him in a power struggle towards the middle or end of Kujula's reign. Until some further inscriptions surface that throw clearer light on this dynasty, a more accurate assessment of Hajatria's dates and the territory under his control cannot be made.

An Unpublished Coin-type of Kumara from Karad

S. D. Godbole

Karad, latitude 17° 17' north, longitude 74° 13' south, is situated at the confluence of the rivers Krishna and Koyana in Satara district, Western Maharashtra. The place acquired considerable importance dating back to a remote past. It was an important trading and religious centre in and around the first century, lying on the main trade route to the interior of the Deccan. From Satavahana times the place is known as Karahataka. The earliest literary evidence for the antiquity of Karad is from the Epic Mahabharata. Its sabhaparvan mentioned the name of Karad as Karahataka. The town is surrounded by rock-caves. Many inhabitants of Karad gave donations, which are recorded in Kuda and Bharhut stupa inscriptions. In 1948, the ancient site of Karad was excavated by Bharat Itihas Samsodhaka Mandal. The excavation report described many old remains of the town such as wells, terracottas, beads, ivory kohl sticks, Roman red polished ware.

Recently an interesting coin has come to light from this ancient city and is described below.

Metal: lead, weight 3.200 grams. Shape: oval, 1.9cm.

Obverse: Lion facing right.

Reverse: Swastika in the centre with Brahmi letters: 'Mahasenapati Kumaras'.



This specimen from Karad is typologically interesting. The lion depicted on the obverse resembles the lion-type coins of the Satavahanas. The reverse motif resembles the swastika-type coins of Saka Mana Mahisha discovered in the excavation at Kondapur A.P. Though Karad has yielded many coins immediately after the rainy season, only a few of them are attributed to Kumara. Again it is interesting to note that though coins indicating the name of Kumara are reported, they do not bear the title Mahasenapati. The fact that Kumara adopted the title Mahasenapati, i.e. Army Chief, on this coin shows that he extended his power within his territory. It would appear that Mahasenapati Kumara was an administrator of the Andhras in the Karad region. This unique coin is therefore very significant and important for the ancient history of Deccan.

Two interesting Mughal coins

Frank Timmermann

Farrukhsiyar: a 1/2 rupee of Shahjahanabad.

Although Shahjahanabad is an extremely common mint for Farrukhsiyar, a half rupee (with the usual couplet) dated AH 1129, year 6 seems to be unpublished.



Shah 'Alam Bahadur: a pre-accession half rupee

Full rupees with his pre-accession titles "sultan mu'azzam, Shah Jahan thani" are known from the Tatta mint (AH 1119, year 1). See KM listing 345.1 for example. Here we have a half rupee of the same type.




A Copper Coin of Nasik (Gulshanabad)

Jan Lingen

Maheshwari and Wiggins¹ in their publication on the Maratha Mints and Coinage mentioned "No gold coins are known to have been issued from the Nasik mint by the Marathas and the information regarding copper coins is very meagre." They went on to state that according to Ranada,² in 1750 (AH 1164/64) two *kasars* of Mahuli (a suburb of Nasik) were given permission to mint single and double pice on payment of a licence fee of Rs. 125. This licence was granted for 3 years. However, according to Maheshwari and Wiggins no copper coins with the mint name Gulshanabad, Nasik or Mahuli have so far come to light.

Illustrated here is a copper paisa which clearly bears the mint name Gulshanabad. The coin is issued in the name of Shah Alam II (1759-1806), though unfortunately a date or regnal year is not clear. To the left of the *He* of *Bad Shah* there appears to be a symbol of an 8, which might be part of a date. As the coin is issued in the name of Shah Alam II it cannot be an example of the issues referred to by Ranada as Shah Alam's reign started in 1759.

In the *Nun* of *Gulshan* there is a symbol  which looks rather similar to the symbol found on rupees M/W.T3 and T3a.

These coins bear dates from AH 1190 to 1195 (1776-1780). As later rupees bear the symbol of the *Jaripataka* the paisa concerned might be slightly earlier or contemporary with the aforementioned rupees.



Talvakar³ in an article entitled 'History of Baroda Coins and Mint names', found, according to some old Baroda state records, that from about 1769 to 1772 (AH 1182-86) coins were struck at the Nasik mint. It is not made clear why these coins were struck by the state of Baroda at Nasik, which was not in the Gaikwad's territory. Unfortunately, Talvakar was unable to describe the coins produced at Nasik and so far they have remained unknown. Unless a clearly dated specimen is found it will be hard to say precisely when this coin was struck.

On account of the weight (18.57g) the piece should be regarded as a takka or double paisa.

Notes

1. K. K. Maheshwari and K. W. Wiggins, *Maratha Mints and Coinage* (Nasik, 1989), p.76.
2. M. G. Ranada, 'Currencies and Mints under Maratha Rule', *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. XX, 1898.
3. V. R. Talvakar, 'History of Baroda Coins and Mint Names 1766-1800', *All India Modern History Congress*, June 1935.

An Indo-Portuguese Bazaruco of Ceylon

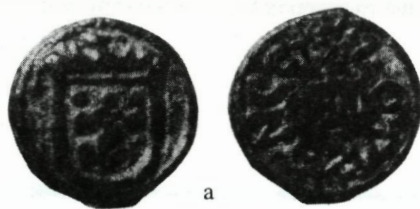
Jan Lingen

Codrington¹ on page 101 mentions

"(f) Of tutenag; on the obverse within a circle the crowned arms, and on the reverse within a similar circle a gridiron surrounded by the legend S LOVRENCO, divided by a nail-like ornament. The weight is 22.05 grains (1.43g), diameter: .47 in. (12mm)." No illustration is given.

On account of Codrington, the coin is listed by J. Ferraro Vaz² under D. Filipe III (1621-1640), ref: F.3.42 and by A. Gomes³ under the same ruler as F3 02.01. Both authors list the coin as a 1/2 bazaruco but were not able to provide an illustration of the coin in question.

Recently I came across two specimens of this, presumably rare, type of coin, one of which is illustrated here. The coins are of a lead/tin alloy which Codrington calls tutenag,



a) weight 1.33g, size: 11mm
b) weight 1.26g, size: 10-12mm.

The coins are undated, but probably contemporary with the silver tanga pieces dated (16)31 (illustrated below), which were also struck in Ceylon (present Sri Lanka). The coins, which are cast, must have been produced at Colombo. The fort of Colombo was at least since the end of the 16th century known as 'Sao Lourenço'.

Notes

1. H. W. Codrington, *Ceylon Coins and Currency* (Colombo, 1924).
2. J. Ferraro Vaz, *Indo-Portuguese Money* (Braga, 1980).
3. Alberto Gomes, *Moedas Portuguesas* (Lisbon, 1987).

A Variety of Silver Tanga with Gridiron

Jan Lingen

On this occasion it might also be of interest to illustrate an unpublished variety of the undated type of silver tanga with the gridiron of St. Lawrence. The type is contemporary with the dated tangas of (16)31 and probably struck before 1634 when local minting ceased at least for a time.

The coin bears on the obverse the crowned arms of Portugal and on the reverse the gridiron between S - L. On one variety, illustrated here, the L to right has been omitted.

The weight is 2.43g, size: 16mm.



₠ tanga dated (16)31; rev. gridiron between S - L



₠ tanga n.d. (probably struck before 1634); rev. gridiron between S - L



₠ tanga n.d. (probably struck before 1634); rev. gridiron with only S to the left.

A Sikh Symbol, the Khanda, on a Mughal Rupee



Bernd Becker has drawn attention to the existence of some Mughal rupees bearing the countermark of what appears to be the Sikh symbol of the Khanda, a two-edged sword. On the coins illustrated here (rupees of Aurangzeb from the mint of Lahore, dated AH 1107, year 39), the countermark is of good workmanship. The Khanda is clearly visible, encircled by a Chakar (quoit) and accompanied by two other symbols, which may also represent swords. The oval countermark measures 8mm and has a border of dots. While countermarks are well known on early Mughal coins (Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Kamran) and on later Mughal coins countermarked by the Durranis, a Sikh countermark on a Mughal rupee has not hitherto been reported. This raises two questions: 1.

Is this in fact a Sikh countermark? 2. When was it applied? It is quite possible that the countermark is of modern fabrication. If any member can throw light on this subject, we shall be pleased to hear from them.

A New Bhutanese Silver Coin

Nicholas Rhodes

The dating of early Bhutanese coins presents a real problem, as the same basic design, copied from the half rupees of Cooch Behar, was used for over a hundred years, from the early 19th century, until the early part of the present century. In my article in the *Coinage of Bhutan*,¹ written in 1977, I attempted to place the coins in a chronological context, and although this was intended to be an initial, tentative, attempt, I have only been able to refine or correct the dating of a very few types since. One such correction has been made possible by the appearance of the silver coin illustrated as no. 1 below.²



1

2



3

4

5



6

7

8

1. Silver coin overstruck on Tibet 2 Sho, Y.6. Obv. die with large and distinctive 'ndra' with Bhutanese 'Sa' to left. Wt. 8.85g. Bertsch colln.

2. Copper coin struck from same pair of dies. NGR colln. Wt. 3.15g.

3. Rev. die as last, but obv. with retrograde 'ndra' and 'Sa' to right.

NGR colln. Wt. 4.10g.

4. Rev. die as last, but obv. with swastika to right and floral design below. NGR colln. Wt. 2.66g.

5. Obv. die as nos. 1 and 2 above, rev. normal design retrograde. NGR colln. Wt. 2.43g.

6. Obv. die similar to no. 3 above, rev. die distinctive, with bold patterns below. NGR colln. Wt. 4.85g. A specimen is known combining this rev, with the obv. die of nos. 1, 2 and 5 above.

7. As last, but branch to right of 'cha' on rev. NGR colln. Wt. 4.22g.

8. As last, same obv. die, but swastika to left on rev. NGR colln. Wt. 3.24g.

The coin appears to be struck in fine silver, and weighs 8.85g, a weight that does not correspond to any normal Bhutanese denomination. On close examination, however, it is clear that it is overstruck on a 2 Shokang of Tibet, struck in the name of the Chinese emperor Hsuan T'ung, in about 1910.³ Copper coins are known struck with the same pair of dies, and it is likely that this silver coin was struck in Bhutan after 1910, and is probably a 'mint sport' struck from dies intended for copper coins, on a convenient silver 'blank', rather than intentionally struck to circulate as a silver denomination.

The dies used to strike this coin are not only found used together, but both obverse and reverse link into a series of coins that are rather distinctive in having both the Bengali letter 'ndra', and the Bhutanese letter 'Sa', written retrograde. One of this group was illustrated in my 1977 article as no. 14, where it was dated to Period III, 1865-1900. A few pieces from the same group have been more recently illustrated in Krause & Mishler's 1996 *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, as no. A8.1, A8.2, where they were ascribed again to Period III, but there dated to 1835-1910. It is clear from the die-links illustrated above, that the whole group can now be dated to the years around, or more probably after, 1910.

The seven copper coins illustrated above are only a small sample of this heavily die-linked group of coins. In my collection I have over 120 examples, struck from 13 different obverse dies, of which only one, that used for the silver coin, is not retrograde, and from about 45 different reverse dies. One of the obverse dies, coin no. 4, is interesting in having a swastika to right of the retrograde 'ndra' and a floral design below,⁴ while nos. 7 and 8 are unusual in having respectively a branch and a swastika on the reverse. Furthermore, an extra horizontal line added to the reverse die of no. 4 shows that it must have been struck after the silver coin, proving that the silver coin was not a late striking using dies that had become obsolete several years before. One common feature of many of the coins is, however, that many of them are in remarkably fine condition, showing 'mint bloom', although it must also be said that many of them are rather badly struck, only showing parts of the design.

The weights shown are the weights of the particular specimen illustrated, but it is clear that at this period there was very little control over the weights of individual specimens, which varied very widely over the range 2g to 5g, with different specimens struck from the same pair of dies varying widely in weight. Although all specimens illustrated were struck from copper, a few pieces are known struck from brass, and occasionally a mixture of copper and brass.

In conclusion, the appearance of this new Bhutanese silver coin, struck over an easily datable Tibetan coin, has shed interesting light on the dating of a large group of otherwise undatable Bhutanese copper coins, proving that they were struck after 1910, during the reign of the first King of Bhutan, Ugyen Wangchuck.

Notes

1. ONS Information Sheet no. 16, January 1977.

2. I should like to thank Wolfgang Bertsch for bringing this coin to my attention.

3. Yeoman type 4.

4. This particular variety is illustrated as KM. 9.1.

Iranian Coins - some new finds and errors

Pran Khanna



1. One shahi, no date or mint, overstruck on an earlier coin. Bird in a cage.



2. 50 dinars, KA 49, local issue, Tehran mint, dated AH 12944 [sic]. Unlisted date and the year when central authority was minting coins. Also an error, with double 44 in date, one smaller than the other.



3. 25 dinars. Y2, dated AH 1296 with clear FP initials. Unlisted date in this series with initials FP.



4. 50 dinars. Y4 dated AH 3100, error date for AH 1300.



5. 50 dinars. Y4 overdate AH 1296/9. Rare overdate in this early series.



6. 2 rials. Y114 with a date of SH 1319, most probably for SH 1311.



7. Rupi of Muhammad Hasan Khan (AH 1163-72, AD 1750-59). KM 504, AH 1169. Isfahan mint. Unlisted mint for this early Qajar silver coin.

Late News

Issue 13 (January 1997) of the IIRNS Newslines has recently arrived. This includes the following items:

J R Hunnargikar: Heavy copper coins of Jahangir

K T Raundal & S R More: Silver coins in Shah Alam's name from Ahmednagar mint. (This is a coin of Shah Alam II).

Devendra Handa: A copper takka of Tirath Haridwar.

This last item features a coin dated AH 1212, year 39, weighing 15.5g. Previously published copper coins have not had the word Tirath.

Ken Wiggins has supplied details of another coin of this type dated 1216, year 43. The various symbols on this coin are different from those on the Handa coin.



Haridwar takka, AH 1216, year 43